

Donated by D. Clark

BERCAW
Family

*Great Aunt
by marriage
written in 1950s*
**Mrs. Bercaw,
101-Year Old
Resident, Dies**

*early 1960s by
Euletta Glover*
Terre Haute centerarian, Mrs. Lida Bercaw died early Thursday morning at her residence, 1009 Eighth avenue, terminating a lifetime of recollections dating back to the log cabin and stagecoach era of Vigo County.

Mrs. Bercaw had marked her 101st birth anniversary Sept. 11 and, as late as her 100th birthday, had still dressed and cared for herself as well as maintaining an avid interest in her flowers. She was particularly noted for her cultivation of roses and dahlias.

She was born in a log cabin between Youngstown and Riley in what was called the Alledale Hill area during the 1860's. Her father, Levi Arkett, had been a stagecoach driver between Lafayette and Terre Haute. He met and married her mother, Catherine Laver, while she was employed at the former Henderson House and they went to housekeeping in the cabin in which Mrs. Bercaw entered the world.

Lived Here Many Years.

She and her late husband, George E. Bercaw, an industrial heating engineer, moved their residence into the city some 75 years ago, at least 70 years of her life having been lived in the house on Eighth avenue.

A daughter, Mrs. Violet Gruenholtz, also a widow, made her home with the deceased about 10 years ago when it was decided that she should not be alone.

Death occurred quietly at 2:15 a.m. Thursday.

She was a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses faith. In addition to Mrs. Gruenholtz, she is survived by another daughter, Mrs. Sarah Ganes of South Bend, 14 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

The body was taken to the Cross Funeral Home where friends may call after 2 p.m. Friday. Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock from the Cross chapel. Burial will be made in Woodlawn cemetery.

Clipping rec'd 1983 from:

Sylvia Bercaw Foster
2344 Arloth St
Terre Haute, IN 47802

Also see:

V68 p. 81 - June 30, 1968
Sec. 25 H. Crk. Twp, Vigo Co.

V. 63 p. 14 - Jan 27, 1963
Bercaw family

Nov. 7, 1963;

Mrs. Bercaw, 101-Year Old Resident, Dies

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2 1963.

Mrs. Lida Bercaw Succumbs at 101; Rites Saturday

Funeral services for one of the city's few centenarians, a lifelong resident of Vigo County, Mrs. Lida Bercaw of 1009 Eighth Avenue, will be at 1:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon at the Cross Funeral Chapel. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery. Herschel Jewell will conduct the services.

Mrs. Bercaw, who had observed her 101st birthday Sept. 11, died early Thursday morning at the residence which had been her home for more than 70 years. She had lived in the city more than 75 years.

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AN AVID flower lover, she had been noted for her cultivation of roses and dahlias. She had kept this up even after one of the two remaining of her four daughters, Mrs. Violet Gruenholtz, also a widow, moved into the home with her about 10 years ago. At that time Mrs. Gruenholtz took over management of the house.

Mrs. Bercaw, who was the daughter of Levi and Catherine Layer Arkett, was born in a log cabin between Honey Creek and Youngstown on Allendale Hill built by her father soon after his marriage. It was destroyed by fire and replaced by another home. Her father at one time was a stagecoach driver between Terre Haute and Lafayette.

+ + +

IN 1885 the late George Bercaw and the deceased were married. They later moved into the home on the site of the log cabin in which she had been born and some of their children were born there, including Mrs. Gruenholtz. Mr. Bercaw, who died in 1943, was a retired heating engineer, having been employed by the City Mutual Heating Company for many years prior to its discontinuance.

Mrs. Bercaw was a member of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Also surviving are another daughter, Mrs. Sarah Ganes of South Bend; 14 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

Friends may call at the funeral home after 2 P. M. Friday.

In the will of Lida A. Bercaw, who died Nov. 7 at the age of 101, 11 heirs were named. Attorney Sam Beecher Sr. was named executor of the \$8,200 estate.

GEN.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



(Photo by Charles)

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS—Mrs. Lida Bercaw receives birthday greetings on her 100th birthday from Victor Christgau, director of Social Security Administration. John Hogan, assistant manager of the Terre Haute Social Security District Office, hands the message to Mrs. Bercaw while her daughter, Mrs. Violet Gruenholz, watches.

Although Social Security records are considered confidential information, in the case of Mrs. Lida Bercaw, of 1009 Eighth Avenue, exceptions are in order. (Mrs. Bercaw and her daughter gave their permission to release information pertaining to them upon the request of the local Social Security office.) Mrs. Bercaw has been a Social Security beneficiary as a wife or widow since November, 1940. Her husband, Emory Bercaw, died June 13, 1943. He

was a retired engineer for the Citizen's Mutual Heating Company, of Terre Haute, where he had been employed for many years.

Mrs. Bercaw has received a total of \$11,171.88 in benefits, through August, 1963, the agency reports. Her daughter, Mrs. Gruenholz, has been receiving benefits since November, 1952, that total \$9,238.80. Mrs. Bercaw's monthly check is now \$77. Her daughter's is \$79.

When asked to what she attributed her longevity, she replied, "Hard work and no drinking." She has never had a broken bone, operation or major illness during her lifetime. Born in Honey Creek Township and a lifelong resident of Vigo County, she married Emory Bercaw on June 28, 1885. The mother of four daughters, two still living, she has 15 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Born in Log Cabin

Local Resident 100 on Tuesday

By EULETA SLOVER

Terre Haute recollections that date back to the Civil War period and the time when the Henderson House catered to overnight guests brought in by stage coach are among the vast remembrances of Mrs. Lida Bercaw of 1009 Eighth avenue, who will mark her 100th birthday Sept. 11.

She enjoys remarkable good health, her eyesight and hearing being phenomenally sharp for her age and she "dresses and cares for herself,



Euleta Slover

personally," reports her daughter, Mrs. Violet Gruenholz.

Both mother and daughter having lost their husbands through death, the daughter left her own local residence about 10 years

ago to care for Mrs. Bercaw, whom the family felt should no longer be alone.

However, despite the fact that Mrs. Gruenholz assumed the household management, Mrs. Bercaw has continued to derive great pleasure out of her floriculture activities, being highly esteemed for her roses and dahlias, among the many specimens in her floral garden.

Place of Birth.

She was born on the heights of Allendale Hill on a farm that is today known as the Riley Sutliff place. It is located between Honey Creek and Youngstown and was occupied by her parents, Levi and Catherine Laver Arkett, who built a log cabin on it soon after their Terre Haute marriage.

Her father, a stage coach driver between Lafayette and Terre Haute some 150 years ago, met her mother while she was employed at the Henderson House. She had come to this area with her parents from Pennsylvania, walking part of the way and settling first around the Poland area. Later, the family moved to the high ground area expanding along the Wabash River and known as Terre Haute.

Cabin Replaced.

The log cabin in which she was born stood until destroyed by fire and was replaced by another structure into which Mrs. Bercaw and her late husband,

George E. Bercaw, later moved their family. It was also the birthplace of Mrs. Gruenholz.

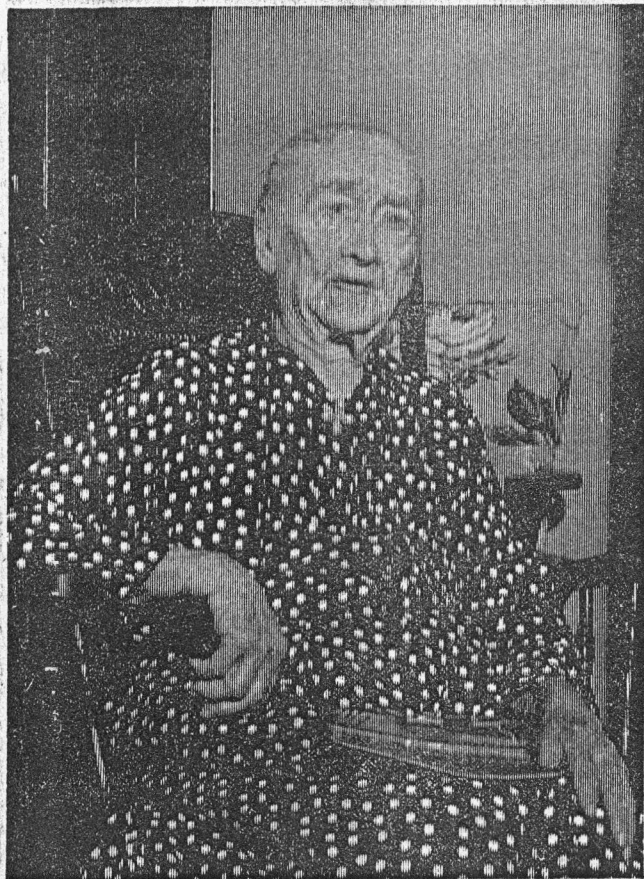
She and Mr. Bercaw, an engineer, married June 28, 1885, his parents having moved to Vigo County from Ohio and settled about one mile south of the Arkett farm.

They moved their residence to Terre Haute about three-quarters of a century ago and occupied the present residence about 70 years ago, maintaining it continuously since.

Mr. Bercaw worked for such former local business as the old City Mutual Heating Corporation which was reportedly located on South Ninth and One-half street, behind the former Terre Haute Brewery site, now partially occupied by Chesty Foods. The firm supplied steam heat to local homes and businesses.

Only two of her four children survived, Mrs. Gruenholz and Mrs. Sarah Games of South Bend.

However, a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren plan to arrive during her birthday week to pay their respects and hear some of the tales Grandma can relate for passing on to their descendants.



TO JOIN CENTENARIAN ELITE—Mrs. Lida Bercaw of 1009 Eighth avenue will become 100 years old Sept. 11. Five generations of descendants will arrive from throughout the Midwest and West to help celebrate the occasion.

Photo by Martin.

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